



WEST TISBURY

Dukes County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

West Tisbury, the bucolic heart of the island of Martha's Vineyard, prides itself on its genuine rural qualities, its well-protected natural resources, its resident writers and artists, its ocean beaches, its neighborly sense of community, its wildflowers, its homespun general store, its fertile farmland

(a winery, a strawberry farm, a llama farm, and hundreds of cows, sheep and onion patches), its summer farmers' market and its boisterous agricultural fair each August.

This slow moving and simple rural village was the fastest growing community in the Commonwealth through the 1980s, and for many of its residents, West Tisbury's biggest problem is the threat of being loved to death.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Located on Martha's Vineyard, an island 20 miles long and 10 miles wide situated five miles south of the southwest tip of Cape Cod. West Tisbury is bordered by Tisbury on the northeast, Edgartown on the east, the Atlantic Ocean on the south, Chilmark on the west, and Vineyard Sound on the northwest.

Total Area: 33.68 sq. miles

Land Area: 25.03 sq. miles

Population: 1,704

Density: 68 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Edgartown Station)

Normal temperature in January.....29.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.3"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Vineyard Haven, Tisbury Great Point, Naushon Island

Regional Planning Agency

Martha's Vineyard

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 693-9659

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1892

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 1,357

Democrats 394 29.0 % Republicans 158 11.6 % Other parties 1 0.1 % Unenrolled Voters 804 59.2 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: West Tisbury town, Dukes County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	2,467	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	2,467	100.0
Male.....	1,219	49.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	17	0.7
Female.....	1,248	50.6	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	127	5.1	Puerto Rican.....	3	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	168	6.8	Cuban.....	9	0.4
10 to 14 years.....	215	8.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	5	0.2
15 to 19 years.....	162	6.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	2,450	99.3
20 to 24 years.....	70	2.8	White alone.....	2,361	95.7
25 to 34 years.....	261	10.6	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	415	16.8	Total population.....	2,467	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	579	23.5	In households.....	2,466	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	136	5.5	Householder.....	1,034	41.9
60 to 64 years.....	84	3.4	Spouse.....	511	20.7
65 to 74 years.....	139	5.6	Child.....	704	28.5
75 to 84 years.....	89	3.6	Own child under 18 years.....	608	24.6
85 years and over.....	22	0.9	Other relatives.....	50	2.0
Median age (years).....	41.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	17	0.7
18 years and over.....	1,834	74.3	Nonrelatives.....	167	6.8
Male.....	885	35.9	Unmarried partner.....	69	2.8
Female.....	949	38.5	In group quarters.....	1	-
21 years and over.....	1,778	72.1	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	289	11.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	-
65 years and over.....	250	10.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	113	4.6	Total households.....	1,034	100.0
Female.....	137	5.6	Family households (families).....	669	64.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	363	35.1
One race.....	2,424	98.3	Married-couple family.....	511	49.4
White.....	2,374	96.2	With own children under 18 years.....	257	24.9
Black or African American.....	17	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	117	11.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	76	7.4
Asian.....	9	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	365	35.3
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	278	26.9
Chinese.....	2	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	73	7.1
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	377	36.5
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	189	18.3
Korean.....	3	0.1	Average household size.....	2.38	(X)
Vietnamese.....	2	0.1	Average family size.....	2.89	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	0.3	Total housing units.....	1,849	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	7	0.3	Occupied housing units.....	1,034	55.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	815	44.1
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	768	41.5
Some other race.....	12	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	43	1.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	1,034	100.0
White.....	2,411	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	773	74.8
Black or African American.....	30	1.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	261	25.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	18	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.50	(X)
Asian.....	17	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.04	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	8	0.3			
Some other race.....	30	1.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

West Tisbury is located on Martha's Vineyard. Ferry service is the vital link to and from the Island. The Wood's Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority provides year-round ferry service. In the summer, private ferry service runs between New Bedford and Vineyard Haven, and between Falmouth and Vineyard Haven.

Major Highways

The principal highways are State Road and the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road.

Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service on Martha's Vineyard.

Bus

West Tisbury is a member of the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (MVTA). The MVTA provides paratransit services to the elderly and disabled, primarily through Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands. Island Transport provides fixed route bus service to other towns during the tourist season. Taxicabs are an integral part of the Island's public transportation system.

Other

The Martha's Vineyard Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility located 3 mi. S of Vineyard Haven, is the major airport on the island, with scheduled passenger service to the mainland. It has 2 asphalt runways: 5,499'x 150' and 3,297'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.